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May 3, 2001  
Date

Jennifer L. Lunnell

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

M. Cannon et al.

Serial No.: 09/479,040

Filed: January 7, 2000

For: POLYHYDROXYALKANOATES  
BIOSYNTHESIS ASSOCIATED  
PROTEINS AND CODING REGION IN  
BACILLUS MEGATERIUM

Group Art Unit: 1655

Examiner: Chakrabarti, A.

Atty. Dkt. No.: MOBT:212  
(11899.0212.NPUS00)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED APRIL 3, 2001

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

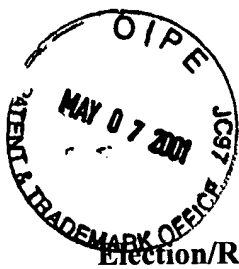
Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 3, 2001 for which the one-month date for response is May 3, 2001.

Please amend the application as follows:

**In the claims**

Please cancel claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 15-23 without prejudice to filing one or more continuing applications.



Election/Restriction Requirement

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The Examiner has required restriction of the patent claims under 35 U.S.C. §121 among three inventive groups. Applicants elect without traverse to continue prosecution of claims corresponding to Group I, drawn to nucleic acids. Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11-14 read on this elected species. Applicants are canceling at this time claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 15-23 without prejudice and reserve the right to file at a later date one or more divisional application containing these claims.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 01-2508/11899.0212.NPUS00/KAM.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned should any further action be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 3, 2001

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